

ECO-MEET Fact Sheet

Kansas ECO-MEET Mission

"To challenge and inspire an interest, appreciation, and understanding of the natural sciences and the Kansas environment thru interscholastic competition."

ECO-MEET History:

The Pittsburgh (PA) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers first developed ECO-MEET in 1976. It was designed to stimulate a greater awareness of the environment for students in grades 1-12, as well as acquaint area schools with the natural resources available at the surrounding lakes. The ECO-MEET that has been established here in Kansas has a little different focus. Our meets are designed for 9-12 grade students. The first meet held in the state was located at Milford Nature Center in 1991. The number of participating meets has grown to include nine different regionals throughout the state.

The purpose of ECO-MEET is to expose this age group of students, many who already have an interest in the natural sciences, to a challenging college level and hands-on learning experience. Hopefully this will encourage these young people to continue their interests in the field of environmental sciences once they complete their high school careers. By presenting new challenges and offering scholarship opportunities for college, this event provides both a fun and worthwhile occasion for participating students.

Lakewood Regional ECO-MEET: *(Held this year at the Indian Rock Park main shelter in Salina)*

ECO-MEET'S Four Events:

Scavenger Hunt- Knowledge of Kansas' plants (team)

Interpretive Event- A five minute presentation where team members interact with each other while portraying Kansas animals and/or plants. This gives each team member a chance to try his or her hand at being a Naturalist or Tour Guide. (team)

Focus Test- *Kansas Reptiles & Amphibians*-Knowledge of Kansas invertebrates (individual & team)

Habitat Test- *Woodland*-Knowledge of Kansas Woodlands ecosystems (individual & team)

Each event will be weighed equally. The questions are on a college level and designed to challenge both students and coaches. Scholarship money will be awarded to each member of the team placing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. Team members can also win individual scholarship money by placing 1st or 2nd in the Focus Test and/or the Ecosystems Test. The scholarship money will be held for those individuals until they have enrolled in an institution of higher learning. Medals will also be awarded to the students upon completion of the event. Additional prizes are awarded at the state competition.

Lakewood Regional ECO-MEET Scholarships:

First Place Team: \$100.00 per team member

Second Place Team: \$75.00 per team member

Third Place Team: \$50.00 per team member

First place individual: \$75.00 (Focus & Habitat tests)

Second place individual: \$50.00 (Focus & Habitat tests)